

**Interview # 20**

**Location: Pt. Pleasant, New Jersey**

**Date: 2/14/06**

- interview is with two individuals (brothers). The primary respondent is listed with an 'I', the brother with 'OG'. Interview was conducted in the galley of the vessel, and audio quality at times was spotty.

**INTERVIEW:**

RES: ...some background questions just to get you know a handle on who you are [ ] For the record, how old are you?

I: 57

RES: You were born in 1950?

I: Yep.

RES: Where were you born?

I: Well, he's 55 and he was born in 1950.

RES: Yeah, well within 2 months, or 3 months, right?

I: Newark, New Jersey.

RES: You come from a fishing family?

I: No.

RES: [ ]

I: Well, my dad fishes.

RES: Commercial or recreational?

I: It was just a party boat.

RES: Your brother, yourself, how many of you were in the family total?

I: I have a sister.

RES: [ ]

I: Um hum.

RES: You mentioned you had a degree from Rutgers.....education...so you have a college ...Did you ever take any formal training in fishing?

I: No. []

RES: You're married?

I: Yes.

RES: And uh... how many kids do you have?

I: 4.

RES: Do they fish?

I: I have one that is a full-time fisherman.

RES: Did you encourage them to get into fishing?

I: Uh, yeah.

RES: We ask about that for you know people....we wondered about what the next generation...you know what's gonna happen to them.

I: Right. It's just that he had to graduate college first, which he did.

RES: He did. And was he one of the Rutgers uh...

I: No, no. He went to uh FIT.

RES: Okay.

I: He's an artist.

RES: Okay. Um, and what's your current...

I: The other 2 are in school.

RES: Okay. Will they fish when they get done?

I: Ah, I don't know.

RES: Have they expressed interest in it?

I: Yeah, some. Not as much as my older [ ]

RES: You encouraged him to get in?

I: Yeah.

RES: Yeah?

I: Yeah.

RES: And what we're gettin' at there is whether or not you think there's a future in it, right?

I: That's true

RES: Or whether or not you think it's a sustainable kind of economic enterprise or a family enterprise.

I: Um hm. Yep.

RES: Um, so what's your status now? Are you owner-operator of this boat?

I: Yeah, he and I are partners.

[ ]

RES: So you've been an owner-operator of this vessel for how long?

I: Since 1988

RES: Since '88?

I: We had the boat built then.

RES: And when did you start...

I: Was it '88? '88, right? When did I start fishing?

RES: Yeah.

I: You mean *ever*?

RES: Yeah.

I: Like when I was in school?

RES: Whenever was the first time you were on the water.

I: Work, um, I was 13 years old.

RES: So 1963.

I: '63.

RES: And how'd you get started?

I: My dad was actually working on the party boat.

RES: Okay.

I: Well, he had, and he knew people, so...

RES: And so what'd you do, start out crewin', or just cleaning the fish, or...?

I: Yeah, [ ]

RES: Was it difficult to get started at that time, or was it just pretty...

I: No. No, it's hard work but...

RES: And when did you start fishing on your own? You guys start off together?

OG: Uh, I was right behind.

I: Well, I got my own boat in around '75? Seventy..five, ah, '75.

RES: You were 25 years old?

I: Right.

RES: And what'd you start off doin'?

I: Lobster trap fishing.

RES: How long you do that for?

I: Just a year.

RES: And then what happened?

I: And then we got a bigger boat.

RES: You and...

I: No, I had another partner.

RES: Okay.

I: And, um, one that we went fish dragging with...that we were gonna lobster fish also, but we wound up going scalloping instead.

RES: So you bought a vessel intending to go dragging...

I: Dragging and lobster trap fishing, but then...

RES: You can use the same vessel for [ ].

I: Yeah.

RES: Okay. But then you ended up going...

I: Scalloping instead.

RES: Why?

I: I don't know. You cut the corners and you make the turns where you think you're making the best turns.

RES: ...you have some clues there....

I: Well, scalloping just seemed to be more year 'round and...

RES: So this was around 1980..?

I: 1976.

RES: Okay, so...were scallops getting good and I know now they're getting very good prices...

I: Very good.

RES: Yeah. Okay. Were they abundant?

I: Yes.

OG: Plus there weren't very many people [ ]. I don't know what the total number was [ ]

I: Price was good. Were we getting a buck a pound.

RES: And that was good?

I: Yeah.

RES: Have you been scalloping ever since?

I: Um hum. 30 years.

RES: And you have a full-time license I imagine now.

I: Um hum.

RES: How many scallopers were engaged in that time when you got in? 76, 77? Around here I mean...

I: I'll say 76. My guess is probably... full-time folks? Well, there were some..[ ]  
[ VOICES GUESSING BETWEEN 50 & 60].

RES: Do you mean in Point Pleasant, or do you mean...?

I: Maybe 60...Oh no, [.] 3 and 4. Yeah, 3 in Point Pleasant. And then right after that there were 10.

RES: Right after what, 1976?

I: Right after that.

RES: So would you say by 1980 there was 10?

I: Yeah.

RES: Even sooner?

I: Yeah, well ya know the original crowd switched over...[ ] XXXX, and the XXX...

OG: I think the biggest amount of folks....after that it... down.

RES: It went down?

RES: So from '76 to '79 it increased fairly rapidly probably 'cause the price was good and there were 'lots of 'em.

I: Right.

RES: ...and then it started to go down?

I: Right, 'cause the '80's was terrible.

RES: What do you mean?

I: Fishing was terrible.

OG: People over fished.

I: It was over fished.

RES: Too many scallops coming out of the water.

I: Right.

OG: Way over fished.

RES: What did you see? Did you start seeing just fewer of them come up, did you see smaller ones come up...?

I: Oh, smaller and fewer.

RES: Okay. And was that an immediate thing, like one year you said “Oh crap, this is goin’ south”, or...

I: It was pretty fast.

OG: ...pretty fast. I would say in 1979 was like the...’78 was really the last great hurrah [ ], that era.

RES: Uh huh.

OG: And then I would say ’79, you know, was okay because there was scallops that kind of left over from that year. But then ’80 was not a good year, but then ’81 was a *very* good year... but we were fishing on very small [ ].

I: We were fishing at the very end of Georges Bank, right off of [ ] Nova Scotia...middle of the night [ ].

I: We had 18 men on the boat.

RES: And you’d already fished out Point Pleasant...[ ]

I: Right, [ ]

RES: Wow. So, through the ‘80s how many boats were there if you say there ...?

I: Well, they...[ ]. Gradually, went out of business.

OG: You’re talking about Point Pleasant?

RES: Point Pleasant.

I: Yeah, they gradually went out of business and went down to one boat...we were the only boat.

RES: Okay. And that was what, by ’85...’87?

OG: ’83, ’84, [ ]. Oh yeah...

RES: What happened to those boats? Did they re-rig for other things?

I: Some, re-rigged...junk...

OG: Went back out from wherever they came.

I: No, just went back into the ground where they came from.

RES: What about the fisherman?

I: A lot of them got older and died.

OG: Well, at that point a lot I think...

I: ... He's talking about Pt. Pleasant.

OG: Yeah. I would say at that point, uh, other fisheries got better, meaning the clam had got better...

I: Yeah, the clam [ ]

RES: [ ]

OG: ...and a lot of the guys went surf clamming.

I: Well, the crew members, but the owners of the boat pretty much...

OG: Yeah, the owners [ ] ... 'cause you couldn't go for one thing...

I: During the '70's and '80's he and I were like the younger guys, right, and then when the fishing got bad the older guys, just, you know, retired.

RES: Yeah.

I: Died.

RES: Yeah. And some of them moved to other fisheries when the...I mean at that point you could bounce around...

I: Who moved to other fisheries? Yeah, some of the Spanish guys, right?

OG: Yeah. They just went fishing, they didn't take [ ]

I: ...actually there's some of those guys still around...

OG: Well, you ought to talk to those guys...

I: Yeah. Go over to the co-op, like the [ ], he went back to fishing, but now he's fishing and [ ]

RES: Okay.

I: We've stuck to it full-time, and that's why we wound up getting...

RES: a full-time license.

I: Right. There's only 2 of us in here with a full-time licenses.

RES: Okay. Who are the other ones?

I: The [ ]. The [ ], that we used to own that boat, we sold it to him.

RES: So, what was fishing like then in the '80's if there wasn't many scallops [ ] were you just going farther, or not making any money, or...?

OG: Well, the thing about the 1980's is it was very up and very down.

I: Yeah, there wasn't...

OG: ...You would have, you would have a...you would have a good showing of scallops and they would all be caught up real quick. I would say...I could tell you right off...1980 was no good. 1981 was okay, '83 was very good because a lot of the boats you know, from '80 - '81 didn't do it, so there was a little rebound in scallops in '83. And '84 was good. '85 went to hell...terrible. '86 there was another big crash of scallops here, right off of... you know... I don't know if you know... [ ] ..the Hudson Canyon had a *big* amount of scallops [ ], so that was '86 and '87... and '88 were good, because there was less [ ] they were mostly small, so we were fishing on small scallops, not illegally, but pushing the law to the limit....

RES: Right.

OG: So by the late '80's there was already uh, uh, uh, limit, size [ ] There was no [ ] on it, but there was a ...

RES: When you first started were there any kind of regulations on...

OG: No.

RES: What was the first one you remember coming on? The first reg that you remember coming on?

OG: [ ]

RES: ...and what year was that, do you remember?

OG: Uh, I think it was, uh, '83? My guess it was January of...no, December of '83 'cause we lost like..like a one day commission in January of '83.

I: Yeah, it got confiscated.

RES: Why? Because you came in with other....

I: Well, they were..right, they over the cap.

OG: They were over the cap by like I think it was a 35 count.

I: Yeah, they were over by like 2.

OG: Oh man, yeah. But, not being familiar with the rules, or whatever [ ]. We just didn't...you didn't know how to count...you know.. you didn't know how to measure...we didn't have the...

I: Well, the count law was no good...one thing about the count law was you could *not* get an accurate count, hey...

RES: Why, 'cause you.....?

I: Our scale does not work.

RES: Right.

I: So you were goin' by volume, and

RES: That changes...

I: ...the scallop density changes, so...

RES: Depending on how much they taken off...how much water they've taken off..

I: Well, that and during different times of the year, they're heavier, for the same volume, so you were guessing, and so they [ ] that law off a little bit, gave us like some leeway, some grey areas they wouldn't confiscate your [ ] but they'd scare ya.

RES: And um, I think they made it a 30 count with a 10 %...

I: Well, 35...

RES: Was it 35?

I: 35 with 10% made it 33.10.

RES: Did that law affect your operations in a major way other than one loss...?

I: Major...major.

RES: How?

I: Major, 'cause you were always dealing, you were living with a very, very bad regulation, and you were living with that regulation day and night to where you were sick to your stomach.

RES: Well, give me an example, like what do you mean living with it, like you were always having to count, or having to calibrate, or...

I: While you were trying to count it, and you were trying to maximize your production...

RES: Right.

I:...but you never because it was so, it was undoable, it wasn't a very objective way to...there was no objective way to measure the...

RES: You mean practically it was undoable.

I: Right. So you were always....

OG: It was never accurate.

I: So you were always scared. So you would...what would happen was in order to be super accurate, where there was you know, it was like...we were [ ] them to death and they were coming in doing eye surgery.

RES: Right.

I: ...and so, but that's one reason why [ ].

RES: Right.

OG: But what had happened was in order to make the count what you do is you would load your boat up with small scallops and then you would work further [ ], so all the big scallops got caught out within a year or two or whatever. It was a terrible law because it made you go get the small scallops and then fish on big scallops just to make the count, so you would come in...

RES: So you'd have a bad [ ]. Lot of small ones and throw in a few big ones in order to make...

OG: Well, no, you would cut what you had...

[ ]

I: It was a nightmare.

RES: And that was '83 they put that on?

I: That went all the way until '94.

OG: [ ] That's right '84 to '94.

I: '84 to '94

RES: And then what happened?

OG: They threw the [ ] law out. They threw the [ ] law out, and they came in with [ ], a limited ban...

RES: A limited ban.

I: ...a [ ] restriction

RES: ...all at the same time.

I: Yes.

RES: And what happened to you guys then?

OG: Well, there was...

I: It was tough for awhile...

OG: ...a few bad years, I would say, well that was...'94 was the last year that was in place so we started in '95, '96, '97...

I: Well, the only thing what happened was it was a coincidence that there was a huge recruitment of scallops that year.

OG: That first year.

RES: At '94?

OG: Right then.

I: But they were small.

RES: Okay.

I: So we were dealing with small scallops.

RES: So I guess your crew decides [ ] they were still at the small end of what was legal.

I: Well, there was no legality.

RES: What was marketable.

I: But they were hard to cut because they were so small. They were hard to catch.

OG: They were hard to cut and they were hard to sell because generally I think that I would say the average [ ] is 35 to 40 pounds.

I: No! I was just telling' XXXX when we first started I remember we went to the [ ] and we were getting 40's - 50's, I think..., boy these are nice!

[ ]

I: So I would say we were working on an average 50 count.

OG: Probably an average of 50 count, which is a *very* small scallop.

I: Like we could pack uh, we did some counts, they were 9 to 14.

RES: Wow.

I: [ ] ...every one.

RES: So when you say in the '70's you were down to a 50 count?

I: No, no, no... they were nice scallops. No, when they started to do clams [ ] but at least there were a lot of scallops. So everybody was like, well there is a future here. We're not making the money now, but there....

OG: Well, we had gear restrictions. We had bigger rings.

RES: So gear restriction, limit on the number of men, and days of [sea]

I: Days of [sea]...that was the 3 big...

RES: Why did they do that?

OG: But reduced gear....

I: Well, you...

OG: In other words, this is why they enacted this law. In the late '70's, the government financed a bunch of boats. Now, [ ], fisheries.

RES: [ ]

OG: They financed a bunch of boats...so those boats generally had ...I'm gonna say...I think there were like...10 year loans...so I'm gonna say from like, maybe they might even be, they might even be 15 year loans, so generally those boats went from 80 to 95. So the government really did want the boats to go out of business because the government actually financed the over fishing 'cause they just assumed...they never thought the commercial fishermen would be that proactive, you know, they would build like 100....like one guy had 40 boats, had 30 boats, uh, so they financed this over fishing...

RES: Their program worked too well.

OG: Oh, absolutely.

RES: In an ecological sense.

OG: Oh, absolutely. So they got to the point well, they knew that all these loans were basically going to be paid up by the federal buying [ ], so they just said well, because they woke up with guaranteed loans. So if all these boats went out of business the government would have to give all these banks the money that was guaranteed to them on these loans. So, after basically I'm gonna say most of these loans were either paid off or were some of 'em probably just went out of business anyway...I think a certain amount did...I don't know what figure is, well then they said, well, now we got to put [ ] regulations, so the regulations they had were terrible, and they knew they were terrible.

RES: So you thought by '94 there were relatively lax restrictions...

I: No! They weren't lax!

OG: Yes they were!

I: But they were sticking with the count...

OG: They were not lax! [ ] At one point there were boats that were working up to 300 days a year.

I: More than that.

OG: More than that. I heard there was one boat, 330 days. They would go out there and make up to 20 [ ] an 18 day trip. The boat would go one day...the boat would go right back out again.

RES: Were you guys doin' trips of that length?

I: No, we didn't do that.

OG: No. We never did any...I think the most days we ever did was

I: We used to do about 220- 250 days a year.

RES: And were they what? 10 – 12 day trips?

I: 10 to 12 day trips.

RES: And how many crew were you carrying?

I: We went 11 hand.

OG: But after those, after all those...

I: There was a reason we went 11 hand.

RES: Why?

I: Well, because you had 2 watches, right? We work 6 on, 6 off. You had the captain, you had one guy running each side of the wench, and one guy hooking up. So there's 4 on deck, one guy hooking up each side. So that's 4 on deck, and the guy on the wheel [ ], so double that, is 10, and then you had your cook, was 11. So 11 was like a standard...

RES: Crew.

I: Crew.

OG: And then actually in New Bedford years ago when there was a union you *had* to go 11. And sometimes, and I think if there was a lot of scallops you had to take 2 trainees, what we would call them [ ].

RES: Yeah.

OG: So a lot of those boats at that point, they were 11 men and [ ].

RES: Okay. So 13 souls on board...

I & OG: We went up to 18 men.

OG: But we weren't a union boat. [ ]

I: And we were fishing what is now what is now in Canada. The very eastern end of Georges Bank.

RES: So then these regulations come on in '94 and suddenly...

I: Everything is changed.

RES: ... You can fish as much as you want...

I & OG: No, no....no way.

I: [ ]

OG: No, before that you could though.

I: Oh yeah...[ ]

OG: Yeah, but from...yeah it was 205 days and then it reduced.

I: Then it reduced every year until we got to 120.

RES: So that's what a full time can go now?

I: No. It's actually less now, 'cause then there was another big change and because they got into rotational quota theory, so that's in the mix now.

OG: You're only allowed to take a certain amount of pounds out...

I: Like we get [closed area trips] our fishing year starts March 1<sup>st</sup>, and we get 5 of those ...well, they're not closed already [ ]... limited access area. So this year we're getting 5 of those on Georges Bank, of 18,000 pounds. But we're also getting 52 open area trips where we can catch as much as we want for 52 days.

RES: Okay. So your 52 days at sea plus 5 times...to catch 18,000 pounds?

OG: That's right. It is unlimited time.

I: Unlimited time.

RES: So you could sit in that closed area for a week if you had to.

I: Right.

RES: Or 2 weeks...or 3 weeks or 4 weeks.

I: 2 weeks, right.

OG: We're talking about a week dock to dock.

I: But they're equating that to 12 days.

OG: They charge you 12 days.

I: [ ]. They're considering it 12 days.

OG: That's how it started but now it's just pounds, the days don't even count.

RES: So the closed area rotation used to be...you would get charged for your days at sea?

I: No. They were equating one of those 18,000 pound trips to a 12 day...

RES: Okay. They didn't actually charge you for...it didn't come out to your total that you were allotted.

I: No. You just got...yeah it did.

OG: It did. Eventually it did.

I: Eventually, it was 10 days for 21,000 pounds. Each trip was 21...the access area trips were 21,000 pounds you got charged 10 days even if it took 5 days, but if you went over 10 days you got charged for actual days.

OG: [ ]

I: The advantage....

OG: 10,000 pounds on the [ ]

I: Oh, the first, very first...it was 21,000 down here.

OG: and then they made...21,000....we never fished it to 21,000.

I: We didn't do one of those though.

OG: No, 'cause you had the option...

I: We had an option of doin it....

OG: You could either do your days in or your days out. In the closed [ ] or out of the closed [ ]. We didn't like the way the closed area program was set up because the was a lot of limitations if you broke down...

I: It all had that option and you lost [ ]

RES: [ ]

I: Special access area [ ].

RES: You [ ] and you give up those 18,000 pounds.

I: Give it up.

RES: Right.

I: You would only get your 52 days.

RES: Right. Starting back in '94, what did that mean for you guys? All of a sudden you're down to would you say 200 days... I'm guessing?

I: 205 days.

RES: 205

I: 9 men and a 3-1/4 inch ring.

RES: So what did that mean?

I: We caught less. We suffered.

RES: By what would you say profitability-wise. We don't need actual numbers but would they go half or did they go three-quarters...?

I: No, no, it stayed about the same, money-wise. But we were already doing poorly before that.

RES: So, it changed things...

OG: There was no improvement and there was no....it was bad up to that point anyway. '92, '93, '94 ... was '94 the first year?

I: First year of this plan.

OG: Yeah. '92 & '93 were *real* bad.

RES: You mean there was no scallops?

I: Right, there was no scallops...small.

OG: Yeah, it wasn't very good....'94, actually, when the plan first came in, it just so happened, like my brother said, there was a big [ ] that year...a *very* small scallop.

I: Well, we're still working on it.

OG: ...that people fish...

RES: They're still out there in that year class.

OG: Yeah...uh nah, probably not...well....

RES: They would be 12 years old now?

I: No, they'd be, yeah, 12 years old right now.

RES: Yeah, but you'd fish 'em for a long time that year class.

I: Yeah, and they reproduced, and we're fishing those.

RES: A baby boom.

OG: So then in '95 wasn't particularly good, it was okay. '96 was no good, '97 was no good, '98 was no good...

RES: Now when you're saying "no good" you're still referring to price and abundance...

OG: Everything.

RES: Were the regulators hurting you or were they helping you or ... did they have a role in it at all?

I: Well, the thing was they were increasing the ring size and cutting the days so that we were probably getting better trips, but less of them so, financially you were coming...you were stayin' the same. Now, I don't know if somebody was figuring that out.

RES: Because well, I mean that's part of what we're trying to figure out now.

I: I think XXXX was behind all that.

RES: How do you mean?

I: Well, I think he kind of knew what he was doin'. I hated him when he was the XXXX but when I look back I think he was very insightful.

OG: Well, I think he was giving' everybody a little dose of...

I: Reality.

OG: Well, he was giving' you a little sugar with your medicine.

RES: Like, what do you mean by that? What's the medicine and what's the sugar?

OG: Well, I think he was giving you the regulations...

RES: Increasing ring size...decreasing days at sea.

OG: Right. But we also had it that we got a limited access license, meaning that there was only a certain amount of licenses so...

RES: For you that was great...

I: Well, there were 3 million [ ]. They *gave* 'em to us.

OG: Didn't cost us a penny.

I: Nothing'.

RES: Other than the history that you put into it..

I: History, That's right.

OG: You know, um, that's what the trade-off was, and that put a lot [ ] who wanted the limited licenses.

RES: They did.

OG: Oh, yeah!

RES: You guys want it at the time?

I: I thought it was un-American.

OG: Yeah, but...

RES:...at the time.

I: Yeah,...I still do, but now that we've suffered so much...

OG: But they could take that license away from you now. They could just say, "oh, we're changing' our plans".

I: That license is gone. [ ].

OG: But if you were to sell it today it would be worth...

RES: ...on the order of 3 million bucks?

OG: Between 2 and 3, you know, I don't know.

I: I think they're actually about 3 and a half.

OG: People are gobbling' 'em up like... you know..

I: But I think people are gonna get hurt.

RES: Well, as far as the price, I think it's *very* high right now, right?

OG & I: Oh yeah...high.

I: I think it's a good time for people to get out if you wanna get out. I know people who...what's his name? XXXX. [ ] he had 4 boats?

OG: He had 5 boats, just one family, 5 boats.

I: Got 12.5 million.

OG: But that was last year.

I: Last year...okay...we're cashing' in our chips...might have done the right thing.

RES: Yeah. Well, that's an awful lot of money. That would be an enticement for me, I think...think about it, you know.

I: The only thing like in our case we have one boat...you know once you liquidate everything and pay all of your taxes there's not that much left...and we both have time to work in our lives, so... this boat isn't for sale...this boat [ ] for sale for anybody.

RES: Because it's a lifestyle choice that you and your brother...

I: That's it. This is what we do....it supports 3 families basically, because my father [ ].

RES: You've gone from 200 [odd] days at sea, you said you were using, or actual days on the water now to 52..how do you...?

I: No, no.

OG: Basically, 100.

I: Call it 100, but this year you could call it 110.

RES: How do you find that, being' on the water half as much? Or less?

I: Well, we're producing' double or triple what we were in half the time...

RES: In dollars or pounds?

I: Pounds.

OG: No, more than double. If we went out on a 10 to 12 day trip and you got 5,000 pounds, you'd think, not a bad trip. You know, it was alright. But now, it's 25,000 pounds.

I: So we're producing' ...

OG: 5 times

I: No, it's not 5 times..

OG: Per day.

I: Oh, per day...I'm talking' about by the end of the year we're producing...

RES: But then, if you're getting half as many days at sea, 5 times, I mean it's not...

I: Right...I think we're producing about 4 times...

RES: Per day.

I: No, per year.

RES: Per year. Total at the end of the year.

I: At the end of the year for half the time, basically.

RES: Oh, that's a good thing.

I: Well, we've become super efficient fishermen because every regulation that comes down you learn to work with that, and we've been getting them basically one at a time and you learn to deal with that,... become....when we go 7 handed it's....well we've had trips up to 40,000 pounds. For 7 guys to get 40,000 pounds, it's incomprehensible.

RES: And how many days do you go out now? You don't know...

I: 12.

RES: 12 days still.

I: 12 days dock to dock, on our open area trips.

OG: Yeah, so basically you'll do...

I: Forget the 10 day trips.

OG: 4- 12 day trips [ ] And then you'll do 5 closed area trips. Now, of course, that could all change.

I: And we also do some general category [ ] 400 pounds.

OG: But we do scientific work now too.

RES: For which you're [ ] a research allocation?

OG: Yeah... that's set aside...

I: [ ]

OG: Yeah, we just put in for [ ] and we'll probably hear in the next couple of days. We put in for a bunch of things...

I: That were given to other boats...cause we wanna [ ] because it's a little more fun.

RES: What was Point Pleasant itself like, back then?

OG: Pt. Pleasant, oh, it was just a bunch of little boats. Basically, if you go over to the coop and all the little wooden draggers...that's what Pt. Pleasant was.

RES: When you mean little, what do you mean?

I: 65 – 70 footers.

RES: How big is this deck?

I: This is a 95 footer. And a 95 footer is like 3 times the size of a 65 footer...not length-wise, but boat-wise.

RES: Carrying capacity.

I: Size-wise.

RES: What about socially, do fishermen hang together at [ ] time, do people go out together?

I: A lot different...a lot different socially than it is now.

RES: How do you mean?

I: It's a small profession...we were just talking' about it. When we came here it was mostly Scandinavian guys that were drunkards. But that was their lifestyle. That's how they were.

RES: Drank hard, fished hard.

I: Drank hard, fished hard, and it was a much more basic industry. You know, now ...

RES: What do you mean by "basic"? Like simple technology, or...

I: You'd go out and fish...there's a lot of polin' and pulling' the net...now it's much more sophisticated mechanically...electronically.

OG: The electronics are just amazing....

I:...and you have all the regulations and licensing that you have to deal with, you can't be drunk and do that.

OG: You wouldn't last.

I: ...because you know, you have to figure it out.

RES: More business, in a way.

I: It's more business. So you have different types of people.

RES: What do you think about them? Is that inevitable, or is that good, or bad?

I: I don't think...

RES: It is what it is.

OG: It is what it is. It's just the way the fishery evolved. There's no way...

I: Like in my case I'm a college graduate, so...

RES: Right. You feel like that gave you an advantage, in a way?

I: I think that's why weathered that bad fishing. And a lot of these other guys you know, couldn't handle it.

RES: Couldn't handle specifically what? Figuring out the books, or the economics, or where to sell things, or the regulations, or....

I: Everything.

OG: Well, we've been very proactive...we're very self-sufficient now. You know, we own this boat, but we also own our own dock.

I: Not this dock.

OG: Not this dock, but we own...[ ] coop.

RES: What's that one called?

OG: XXXX.

RES: And that's a commercial dock?

OG: Yes.

I: It's called...the company is XXXX, but the dock itself is XXXX. XXXX is a gear supply...

RES: Yeah, I've seen it...the building anyway...

I: XXXX

OG: So, because Pt. Pleasant right now I think is really on the verge of becoming less of a fishing port.

RES: Yeah, well usually a question we ask about is what do you see happening...

I: When we thought the [ ] in the fishing port.

OG: Well, that's basically why we bought that...

I: But then the clamming got so good, all that way became a boom.

RES: And all that way you mean what? That all the...

I: All the clam boats up that way became a boom.

OG: And it was great for the town, there was a lot of money generated, but...

RES: And when was this, the 80's?

I: 80's, yeah.

OG: Late '80's, but all through the '90's up until last year...

I: The last couple years, now it sucks for some reason.

OG: Overproduced. They can't fill their quota, they can't sell what they catch. A lot of the boats aren't even working anymore.

I: [ ] Canadians...

OG: I don't know what it is, I just think they overproduced...

RES: That's been a limited entry fishery too.

OG: Oh yeah, that was limited entry right from..

RES: ...the get go.

I: The only thing that happened there that was *very* bad is that they had...

[ ]

I: Let me just say that this is what is gonna happen with [ITQs]. The clam business shrunk to like 5 owners that were multi multi millionaires, and now that it's bad I think XXXX is gonna wind up with the whole thing. I'm not saying' ...I like XXXX...and I don't blame XXXX for doin' that, but that's not what the government is supposed to do is let an industry get in one persons hands. We have always fought [ITQs].

RES: So, you wouldn't want see a system like that in the...

I: No, no....

OG: Because what happens is, or what will happen...

I: ...you can't compete.

OG: What would happen if XXXX is ...a nice guy... still, he certainly has a lot of money behind him... but eventually he would be bought up by somebody bigger than him [ ]..Campbells soup...I think I'm gonna buy that...

RES: We're gonna vertically integrate this....

I: We're going to... the scallops are regulated through the New England fisheries [ ] so, my brother doesn't go to as many meetings....he does his...satisfies his...we both have different tasks, and I generally go to as many meetings as possible. But when he brings up the [ITQs] I tell him, this is what's gonna happen. You New Englanders are very independent, spirited people, but if you go with these [ITQ's] , it won't happen in this generation but gradually one person is going to own everything, and that owner, at some point, will be a ...drunkard in Indianapolis, and he's gonna have all the fishing rights in his drawer, and you New Englanders are gonna have to pay that person for the right to fish. And how does that look...?

OG: ...well, you know Canada...didn't basically the same thing happen up there?

RES: Yeah, there certainly were a lot of the same issues.

OG: Yeah, they really.. that's what....I know when ...we were behind the Canadians as far as consolidating the industry, and, I don't know what the number is, you probably know better than me...how many less fishermen are there in...

RES: Oh, they're around probably a quarter of what they used to be...

I: Well, there are less here.

OG: Pt. Pleasant at one time years ago, before we used to come here, I just remember as a kid...there used to be hundreds...I'm gonna say 200 clam boats, maybe there was more. All little tiny clam boats...the guys would go out, there was 3 men on each boat. They'd go out, they were very unmechanized, they would go out there...they wouldn't fish bad weather, they would just go out there...

I: 600 heads of households in this local community.

RES: When was that about? I know you're estimating but...

I: 50's and late 60's.

OG: I don't know...late '40's and 50's, early '60's...late '60's maybe. I remember I used to...you know, as a kid working' on a boat I remember....

I: During the '70's that was over.

OG: By the early '70's...

RES: What happened to them? They just got pushed out by the bigger boats?

OG: Well, they had consolidation...give you \$20,000 for your license... a lot of money back then.

I: Well, they used to have 45 foot wooden clam boats. Now you've got the XXXX , a 115 footer.

RES: The thing is the licenses weren't worth \$20,000 back *then*.

I: [They didn't have licenses then].

OG: No, but they consolidated...they licensed those guys, and then those licenses were worth \$20,000. Remember back. [ ]

I: Yeah.

RES: When would that have been?

OG: That was middle '70's.

I: '80's.

OG: Late '70's. He sold that one...[ ]

I: 70's?

OG: Oh, that might have been 1980. And then that was...slowly all that money...I think that was like the last small guy around...clammer... like a [ ] boat in Pt. Pleasant.

I: Well, you got the XXXX... he's .... [ ]

RES: Still moving' along?

I: XXXX, did you ever hear of that boat?

RES: No.

I: I forget his name.

RES: Well, the [ ] is still fishing' but not that... [ ]

I: But the Marietta...I forget the guy...the guy's a good guy, he's from Rhode Island, and uh...

OG: ... But XXXX, the guy that *runs* the [ ], ever talk to him?

RES: Yeah, I talked to him a couple days ago.

OG: He really knows the dates, much better than I, and the issues.

I: But the XXXX...it's interesting...he's still in business. He runs his own boat. He has all his clam [ ]. What happened was when they were consolidating he had friends in New England that were like..."well there's no way I'm selling' it to one of the big guys", XXXX or XXXX. "We're *not* sellin' our quota to him, *you're* getting it".

RES: Was that on principle or...

I: Yeah, it was just on principle. So then you want to see one of the 4 hogs get it all...you know, like this guy [ ] I mean, he has. He'll be in here this summer [ ].

RES: You started to say earlier that you don't think commercial fishing is going to last for much longer here, or you're concerned that it won't?

OG: Oh, I think that once the whole water front by ...

I: ...real estate industry is....

OG: We understand that that's all gonna get sold.

RES: That what is all gonna get sold.

I: The whole clamming area.

OG: It's too expensive a property.

RES: You're talking about the coop and the...

[ ]

I: The coop probably never will be. There will always be a fishing chunk, port there.

OG: Yeah. In one form or another.

I: And we're not selling our property in our lifetimes. Now this guy just had his [ ], and he's a support industry. He's the mechanic. I don't know what we'd do...we'd have to get 'em from somewhere else, but this was seized as a fishing dock.

OG: [ ]

I: That's why we put that property over there because...

OG: ...we'd fall back.

I: ...well, we've been tying up here for years and we knew that someday he's going to be leaving so...

OG: And he actually did have it sold, and we were ready to leave, but then he changed his mind and the deal fell through, so now he's here. But we're here until he leaves.

RES: So a lot of these people are going to leave... it's just be a coop and a bunch of condos?

I & OG: Yeah...

OG: You're gonna see a big developer come in and buy that piece. Well, we know people who work for a big developer and there was some offers made, offered and accepted. We haven't seen it happen yet...

I: But now that clamming business is not that good, could very well see that get developed.

RES: What do you guys think about that?

I: I don't think that's good. I think the Jersey shore has been taking a blow in that the diversity here is disappearing.

RES: The diversity?

I: Well, there's less bars, there's less like uh... [ ] parks & stuff along, it's just all homes [ ], so...

RES: For people that come down a month every year?

I: Right, and after awhile why would anyone want to go to a place like that if there's nothing else to do but look at your friend sitting on his porch on the condo? I mean...with the fishing industry at least people could... wow... fishing boats! Look! This is where they come from. People have a reason to come here.

OG: If we come in here in the middle of the night you know, anytime after dark, which we very rarely do, but when we do, all you see is like people taking pictures...of the boat.

RES: Oh, really?

OG: Yeah, you see the flashes. We see that all the time. You know, Pt. Pleasant really as far as ports is really small potatoes...

I: Not that small.

OG: Yes, it is. It is.

I: I think we're at number 8....

OG: Yeah, but you go to Cape May...

RES: Cape May is much larger than...

OG: Cape May is very busy [ ] It's just amazing at what goes on at Cape May...

I: Well, you have all those day boats there now.

OG:...and I'm not saying Pt. Pleasant is you know, not, it's not a substantial port, but compared to these other fishing ports, it's unbelievable.

I: Well, it was until the clamming busted. It was pretty big until the clamming busted. This was a giant port, and then it, you know, it comes and goes. Waxes and wanes. Right now it's waning.

RES: Because of the clam thing?

I: Yeah, but there's some scallop back [ ] right now...

RES: Are there a lot of [ ] scallopers here, like the day scallopers?

I: Yeah, probably 20. Not as many as like Cape May, but...

RES: What do you guys think about that growth?

I: Too much. Because we just went through all the suffering that we did, and we've had a lot of input into the regulations to get back on our feet, and now that's become a threat.

RES: Not sheer numbers of people fishing...

I: Yeah, there's too many of 'em.

OG: It adds up.

I: There's 800 boats.

OG: This is the numbers, and these are the national mean fisheries numbers. The general categories is supposed to be between 2% and 5% of the fishery. So this year... *their* numbers. ... I heard up to 20%.

OG: Is 20% ..

RES: ...of the total scallop [ ].

I: *Reported.*

OG: Reported. 20%. And they figure it's actually another half [ ] of unreported. So, but they only can go by what you reported...and this is guys that I know in the National Marine Fisheries [ ], and that's totally unacceptable. They can't [ ] work the numbers out and it comes down to if everybody wanted to stay in the general category fishery then if they wanted to keep the

general category fishery in order for it *not* to be more than 2 to 5% of the industry, each boat would be given 20 to 30 trips [ ]. And that would be all the boats that are in it right...

I: 'Cause XXXX called me ....a good guy to talk to...and when he was fishing, he was one of the best. But he said it would be about 15,000 pounds per boat.

OG: An that's a lot! Because, I don't care what anybody says...

I: You know...\$150,000 extra...

OG: That's a lot of money! And even at that, you'd still see the fishery get depleted. I think that's still too high.

RES: The fishery is fairly abundant now though, isn't it?

I: We see a little bit of handwriting on the wall right now, when we go out. It's starting to be over fished.

OG: They were...The closed areas... no, the one closed area, Hudson Bay area, wasn't closed, but there was nothing in it, because the government dragged their feet. They weren't proactive in saying, "hey, there's not enough scallops there, we've got to shut it down". Okay, they should have shut it down. But it got to the point where the boats were never getting 200 pounds a day, but they had to go there. Those guys would do 20 days in there, and they'd average maybe 400 pounds a day, so for 20 days that's getting 8,000 pounds. It wasn't...

RES: You're not recovering fuel.

I: People didn't even use their trips

OG: Yeah, they just held on to them...they lost them.

I: Well, we don't know what's going to happen...

OG: We don't know if they're gonna lose them or ...

I: We happened to get out.

OG: Because we went in early.

I: We went [ ].

OG: Because what had happened was in the Hudson Canyon closed area, in December, there was a lot of scallops in there. There was a lot. What had happened was the scallops moved out...they weren't caught. Because come March 1<sup>st</sup> when everybody went in there, there still some in it, but all the scallops moved into the open area, which, maybe the government didn't want 'em to do that...I don't know. But they did. They don't know there's a line drawn there. They don't know...

RES: Which is often a problem with spatial...

OG: Oh, absolutely! You know that! They don't fit. Especially that size scallop...

I: But you know, the general theory is good....that they are protecting these young scallops...like they have the [elephant trunk]...there's more there than they've seen *ever* in the history of ....

RES: So, you're in favor of this rotating [ ]?

I: Absolutely.

OG: Well, as it is now it needs to be tweaked a little bit because...in other words, it has to be...

I: It has to be more realistic. They have to know where and when those small scallops are there, and close it right away. And then open it at the right time, and then ....

RES: So when that fisherman comes on a big pile of small scallops, maybe a call in system, or something like that where they....

I: Well, no that's not fair....

OG: They have to see it...it has to be documented...[]

I: They do surveys.

OG: Yeah, they listen to that. But a survey would tell you, yeah...

I: You know, the albatross.

RES: Yeah, an annual kind of deal...

OG: But even annual's not enough, because the scallops move.

I: Well, the problem is they could do it annually, but then the council can't react quick enough.

OG: When the Albatross did their survey in 1995, no, in 2005 in the Hudson Canyon area, yeah, there was a lot of scallops in August. There was. But by December, January, February of 200... what am I saying...in 2004... August of 2004... when they did their survey, there was a whole lot of scallops. By January of 2005, those scallops were moving' out....for whatever reason, they were on their way out.

RES: What would you do differently then?

OG: Well, they'd have to revise them amount of trips that they allowed in there. If they would have done a survey there in the end of March let's just say... "we can't make these guys do 3 trips in here, we'll never get 'em." Right now what they're talking' about in Elephant Trunk, someone came up with 9 trips in the Elephant Trunk...I mean it's totally unrealistic. Yeah, you'd get your 9 trips, but there would be nothing left. Because what would happen is everybody starts [high-grading], they're looking for larger scallops, they want to get their trips

faster, they wanna get the better price. Well, those smaller scallops land on deck, there's so many scallops the guys can't process them, so they die. So, that's a wasted part of the industry, because, they die.

RES: Right. That protein, if you break it down to that level is just gone.

OG: Yeah, what comes on deck is dead. Because there are so few men on the boat...only 7 men...those scallops die. So, it's a wasted part of the industry. It just disappears...they're dead. But getting back to the Hudson Canyon area, if they would have done a survey there in let's say towards the end of February, then they would've said, "Wow, this doesn't look so ...maybe we ought to pull back a trip or two. Because really, 3 trips was far too much, and I think a third of the trips were not used there, maybe 20% were not used, so there's 20% that never even did their trip, or either did one...

RES: This was just last year that this was a problem?

OG: 2005.

RES: 2005.

OG: Yeah. But not in 2004 that the place was teeming with [ ], and those scallops they moved into the open area, and the National Marine Fisheries...I'm not saying they did anything wrong or there was anything sinister, but they weren't active in seeing that it was...because they were saying, "well, you know, okay there was 1,500 pounds a day time 12 days"...whatever that comes out to...I think it's 18,000 pounds [ ] allowed. So they were allowing you 18,000 pounds. Well they should have [ ], you know, seeing that it wasn't gonna work out that way, they should have lowered the amount of pounds...okay, well, it's gonna be 10,000 pounds because that's what they did on the southeast [ ]. It started out at 10,000 pounds. Well, even at that, at 10,000 pounds I think the first year they had it they allowed a free trip. And actually, that was pretty good...I thought that's not too bad...okay, we'll take 10,000 pounds [ ]. You know, that's not too bad. It was a decent trip. You weren't out there for 15 days, 20 days, trying' to get it, and it really didn't get fished out. Boom, they shut it down. They said, "we're gonna give it a rest". But, this area down here, they just let that whole area get slaughtered. So, you would have been better off having them shut it down for, instead of you know, 3 trips at 18,000 pounds, which was 54,000 pounds. "Well, we'll give you 3 -10,000 pound trips, or we'll give you 2 - 10,000 trips." We're on to something there...if you went there and tried to catch...I would venture to say you would catch *nothing* there. You might catch a handful of small scallops, that's it.

RES: So, for that particular example where maybe they didn't react fast enough, is there some way that you would have changed their approach to management, or are they basically doing a good job except for isolated cases like that, or...?

OG: I think they're doing a good job as far as management, but they're just so slow reacting...like they....well, we can't do it for this thing....spend too much time...they get hung up on certain issues that just take forever and ever.

RES: For example?

OG: Well, this whole [ ] issue. It's just going to go on and on and on. Well, there's nothing we can do about it...well, there is, if you *wanted* to do something about it. Knowing' that they've caught 20% of the total allowable catch...I don't know what the total allowable catch is...60 million pounds. So, if they're allowed to catch 20% of that, that's *a lot!* That's a big chunk of what...and I'm not saying for a selfish reason, it's just that it depletes the fishery. I mean, you could...a few years ago there were that many boats stayed fishing, but we would go [ ] 22 minutes. That was our first tow...we would start fishing in 22 minutes, we'd get our 400 pounds, and then we'd be done, and then we'd go out, do another one. We'd be done by midnight, but we'd do 2 in 1 day. We would sail at 9:00 in the morning. We'd be back in Pt. Pleasant by 2:00 in the afternoon. We'd go out and do another one, and then we'd wait 'til after midnight to come in. Which is total [ ] so we would just sit out in front [ ]. But now, you can't do that, because not that each boat is catching' so much, 'cause 400 pounds just adds up [ ] scallop [ ] area. So the National Marine Fisheries and the Council sitting on their hands and they're letting this take place and scallops are going'. There's not gonna be a lot of scallops in [ ] because you can see that the boat's just going' further and further offshore.

[ ]

OG: That's where they made their mistake is that they can't...there's no mechanism...

RES: ...to react quicker to the [ ] fisheries.

I: That's right.

OG: And you're gonna see that these boats, instead of going 5, 6, 10 miles out, they're out offshore with us, 40, 50 miles from here. These little boats, these lobster boats with one [ ].

RES: So there's a safety issue there.

OG: Well, it is a safety issue. Of course, they're not....they're not fishing...

I: Well, the only thing is, they're newcomers.

RES: Yeah, to scalloping'.

I: They shouldn't really allow newcomers to come in a threaten the industry.

OG: Well, it's not a threat...it's more than a threat.

RES: Just to play devils advocate, but how do you reconcile this with the American thing: it's un-American to limit opportunity to...

I: Well, they've already made us suffer for all these years.

RES: You sound like you're fairly involved...at least with the science, and you in the....

OG: He's a little bit more than me.

RES: Has that always been the case? Have you always been involved with that since the get-go? I mean, the '70's...

I: Well, in the '70's we didn't know any better, so we didn't pay any attention, and then they passed that [ ] which was horrible, and we were like...hey, we should have been watching' what they were doin'. Industry generally, our industry is very proactive.

RES: The scallop industry?

I: Yeah. We pay XXXX a million dollars a year, the lawyer, [ ] But we belong to... I don't know if you know about the Fisherman's Survival Fund?

RES: Yeah. That's up in Bedford, New Bedford, right?

OG: A lot of the big contributors are from down here, with Barnegat light, contributes a lot of money...

I: Yeah, XXXX ...

OG: The [ ], they contribute... a lot of money is contributed that comes from down here up there that goes to the Fisherman's Survival Fund. We're one of it's biggest individual contributors to that because we don't have...we're not up there to voice our opinion all the time...

I: Right.

OG: ...so we have to have that sort of pull.

I: There's a lot of meetings that we're out fishing.

RES: Right. And that's a long way from...

OG: Yeah, it's not around the corner.

I: Right. Most of the meetings are in New England. But this last one, it's gonna be an amendment so they have to...

RES: Go around.

I: ...up and down the coast. So, I don't know. You might want to go to that if you're doin' this project.

RES: Yeah. I'm [ ] to be away next week but generally I do try to make those kind of meetings. Do you guys find that you're the exception rather than the rule in terms of getting involved, or do most people...?

I: No.

RES: Most people get involved.

I: Yeah.

RES: Is that true in other fisheries or do you think that's particular to scallops?

OG: I don't know....

I: Depends on the fishery.

OG: As far as the ground fish, I think there's just so many ground fishermen up in New England. I don't...

I: [ ]

OG: Yeah but not...

I: I've been to a meeting with ground fishermen.

OG: Yeah, but for the amount that there are I don't think...

I: I'm sure that the 3 clam boat owners are...

RES: Well, there you go...

I: They probably each have their own lawyer.

RES: Yeah. At that stage of the concentration you gotta pretty good interest to doin' that.

OG: So like, in a place like Nova Scotia or Newfoundland, so all these boats they just tie 'em up, 'cause you see 'em in the paper all the time.

RES: Yeah. A lot of 'em did. A lot of 'em did.

OG: And they're cheap. They're American boats, they can come into American waters if there's a license available. But....

RES: A lot of the old guys, like they actually didn't have that much money into their boats. The old trap [ ]. The cod fishing boats were pretty simple vessels. There wasn't a lot of capital in them. The newer guys, they kind of got burned. I mean you see...you drive around Newfoundland, there's a lot of boats just sitting' there, pulled up on the shore and rotting' away. You can't sell 'em, you can't do anything with 'em.

I: That's because it got overbuilt. And *this* was overcapitalized.

RES: Yeah. It *was*. You don't think it is anymore? Getting better?

I: Well, I think that it got overcapitalized and then, you know, became limited access and you know, our time is regulated so that now, we're more making a living. Well, I guess it's not.

OG: But as it is right now I don't....I think the fishery....because now....

I: There's too many general categories, that's what it is. It's 840, I think the last count. That's a lot!

OG: So, figure it out. If you have 8...let's say 9...[ ]

I: In 1994 [ ] the only ones who did it were like guys like us who had our days at sea we'd do a little bit of...

RES: Right.

I: Now...800...

OG: Basically, they're trying to put on, you know, just to keep the guys working'...

I: ...Just to run the boat

OG: But if you round that off and say there's 900 day boats. In one day, at 400 pounds, that's a lot...

RES: Right. 360,000 pounds of...

OG: ...that's a lot of pounds!

RES: ...scallops.

OG: That's right. That's a lot of pounds! That adds up. So that comes out of the total allowable catch. I don't know how many days they do. If they did 100, that's a lot. That's *a lot!* That's a big chunk of the fishery. But if they...if...what they're gonna have to do if they want to, if they wanted to allow, if they wanted to make this equal to everybody, everybody's gonna have to take a big step backwards.

RES: So, if you were king of the scallop world you give everybody some....

OG: Right.

RES: But scale back.

OG: Right. But if I were to do it. If I were to...if it were up to me, I would backdate it to 1999.

RES: What do you mean?

OG: I would say, okay, [ ]

I: Control date.

RES: Your history, your control date.

I: But they're not going to do that though.

OG: No. They did it. They already have it dated to 2004.

RES: Which is not long ago.

I: But they may not hold it. Like they might even move that up.

OG: But they should move it back. It should be '99.

I: They're not gonna move it back.

OG: Because where was everybody in '99? What were you doing in '99? But now it's to the point where it's far too much, far too much [ ]. Anything in shore...I'm not saying they're all caught up, but it's pretty well [ ] because whether it takes a guy 10 hours, 5 hours, 24 hours, he's still gonna go out and get 400 pounds. The 400 pounds is still gonna be taken. Where we're working' in a spot that if we get less than 2,000 pounds we move away. But those guys will stay right on that spot where we're getting' 2,000 pounds and keep banging that down and banging that down until....

RES: Because they don't want to pay [ ] fuel to...

I: Right.

OG: Well, they're smaller boats, they can't.....

I: They lose [ ] closer.

OG: I mean I don't begrudge anybody making' a living but, you know...

I: There's too many 49'ers.

RES: 49'ers?

[ ]

OG: The whole idea of our laws initially was so that there was a sustainable catch. Well, it's not gonna be a sustainable catch if there still caught and that's the way the fishery's done right now. It is definitely on the downward sliding [ ]...the handwriting's on the wall. Because we've seen it with the mismanagement of [ ] because the day boats were allowed to go in there.

I: Yeah, but they weren't going' in there.

OG: Yeah they were, and there was [wholesale] cheating going' on.

I: There was a lot of cheating.

OG: There was a lot of cheating.

RES: What do you mean by cheating?

OG: Well, ....

I: More than 400 pounds.

RES: And when they underreport or misreport they're just selling it off the back of the truck, to restaurants or whatever...

OG: The National Marine Fisheries knows all about it and they know that it's probably....what they're showing' is doubled [ ].

RES: I guess there's an enforcement issue there, I mean whether it's...

I: The fish cops can't be everywhere.

RES: Yeah. The ocean's a big place and the waterfront's a big place.

I: Well, they have these special tracking systems.

RES: What do you think about those? Do you think it's a good idea regardless of whether you didn't want to resist that or don't resist that?

I: Well, I think it's un-American, but...I mean if you're gonna do something un-American you have to.

RES: Yeah. A matter of fact people have complained that they feel like...

I: They feel like a criminal when...

RES: Yeah, there's big brother watching' over your shoulder, the government's intruding, but a few at a time, it does help.

OG: But if you're in a limited access fishery and it's all done by what's caught, how are you gonna know what's caught? Because everyday when we're on a closed area trip, meaning, you know, one of the access areas, we have to [ ] how much you catch. Everyday.

I: Everyday.

OG: And if you don't report it, you get a message, "Hey, what happened to your catch today"? You have to let them know, because you can't leave the closed area with, what is that, how many bushels...

I: 450...bushel by the day.

OG: Boats have been leaving the closed area with more than that, and they would make the drop off. A boat would come into the closed area and take scallops off the boat so they would, you know, get their total down [ ]. But all those scallops just disappeared [ ]

RES: That had been happening, that they're not happening anymore, or.

OG: I don't think it's much....

I: I don't think there's much cheating going' on.

OG: No, not that I know of.

I: Well, these [gen-cat] boats have separate tracking systems now.

OG: ..and they have [ ] in the industry.

I: Yeah, they have a stake.

OG: Because they... if they get caught [ ] license.

[another person enters the room]: A good friend [ ] one of the boats down at Cold Springs [ ]

I: At Cape May.

OG2: Full-time scallop boat...

I: That big bucket.

OG: You know, XXXX.

I: Oh, XXXX.

OG: The XXXX owns the boat.

I: And he was cheating.

OG: And he got caught.

I: He was fishing outside [ ]

OG: Yeah. He was supposed to be in the Hudson Canyon closed area, and he...I know the guy and I know what he was thinking...I can't read his mind but I know the mentality....

RES: He'd catch 'em faster outside the area.

OG: Absolutely. Well, what he was doin' was he was going' through the other closed area....he was going from the ....

I: Oh, he was going' through the Elephant Trunk?

OG: Through the Elephant Trunk....

I: Is that where he got caught?

OG: Yeah...to the Hudson Canyon closed area. So he would...boom, boom, boom, ....

I: Oh, you know he got caught there?

OG: Yeah.

I: In the Elephant Trunk?

OG: Yeah. And then he would go into the Hudson Canyon area with those scallops...

RES: Why would he do that knowing he has the VMS on board?

OG: Well, he was...

I: He was going' from the dock...here's Hudson Canyon, and then here's the Elephant Trunk area, so he was going' from Cape May....

RES: Saying he was transiting but actually fishing.

OG: That's right.

I: And it didn't take many tows to get the ball rolling.

OG: ...coming and going.

RES: So you could call it...?

OG: Right.

RES: ...transit....

I: And I'm not that mad at him for that because it was a screwed up deal anyway.

RES: What was a screwed up deal?

I: The way the Hudson Canyon area was ....

RES: That's who you were talking' about....

I: [Fished out] and everybody was forced to go....

OG: Well, I'm telling' him, you know, they should have backed off right away. They should have said, 'well, alright, you can have your free trip but instead of getting 18,000 pounds you're gonna get 10,000 pounds. That's what they should've done. Or they could've said, "well you're only gonna get one 18,000 pound trip. But, they just never changed anything and it just went on and.. What was the amount of trips that ....I think it was like one-third. We know people....their boat never even went in. We know this one woman, she has a boat, has 3 trips she's sitting' on.

I: I tell you who our biggest enemy right now is Oceana...because they are against fishing whether it's good or bad, and right now they have area 1 access area closed just because they

found a technicality to get it closed, and there's loads and loads of big scallops there that should be harvested now.

RES: And that was a closed area that was scheduled to be....

I: That was scheduled to be open.

OG: But that wasn't closed for scallops. That was closed for [ ]

I: It was closed for [ ] but they opened parts of it up for scalloping because there were so many mature scallops there. But Oceana found a technicality and just in the name of....

RES: What was their motivation then?

OG: Habitat.

I: No. They're...

OG: No, habitat.

I: I guess the people who are ...run Oceana are lawyers, so when you're fighting a case for your client, whether he's right or wrong, you're fighting it as hard as you can and that's what they were doin'. They're against fishing...I mean their ultimate goal is noble, and they want ...pro-environmentalists and, you know, conservation, but their methods I think, are wrong because they'll fight....

RES: You mean litigation, or you mean...?

I: Well, they'll fight good fishing practices just to fight fishing practices.

RES: All fishing is evil in their eyes.

I: Well, the way they're fighting it, yes. All fishing is evil...so it's like if the Republicans are for one thing the Democrats are automatically against it, whether it's good or not.

RES: Right.

I: [ ]

RES: Right. So they actually make mistakes in terms of...?

I: No, they didn't make mistakes. I mean, you know....

RES: What they're targeting to fight against, sometimes they target....

I: Right. In other words, they're ....they closed....let me just give you an example. We were fishing in closed area 1, we had one trip there this year. In a 5 minute tow, we caught enough scallops for a day and a half. Probably, a quarter of our trip. So, extrapolate that out, probably...ideally, for 20 minutes of towing we'd get that 18,000 pound trip. Now they closed

that because of a technicality, so what are we doing instead? So now, we're dragging 24 hours a day somewhere else, to *fish*!

OG: And that's what happens down here in the Hudson Canyon area.

I: But they found a way to close that up, and they did it. Even though environmentally it would have been 1,000 times better to be fishing there than somewhere else.

OG: Well, what's gonna happen in that area 1 that we're speaking of... is you're gonna...I think the scallops [ ] you're gonna have a major dialogue.

RES: Too many [ ], not enough food for them...

OG: They're gonna die.

I: Well, no, age-wise. They're way past their prime. So not only are they hurting the environment, they're also damaging the wealth of our nation.

OG: Yeah, well there's a whole area on....I don't know if you're familiar with the [ ] Edge, that's another closed area. Now we did a survey in there.

I: It was unbelievable!

OG: There was areas in that...now this was back in 1998....there was...

I: Wasn't that '99 we did that survey?

OG: No, it was '98. There was...the numbers....I just want to make sure I get the numbers right. They figured there was 200 million pounds of harvestable scallops there, and they were dying at a rate of 10%.

I: 10% in how long? A year?

OG: A year. And that would be 20 million pounds. At that year, 1998, I think that was the total amount that was actually caught.

I: 20 million pounds.

OG: 20 million pounds, for the *entire industry*. And this was just the one closed area where...

I: Just dying!

OG: ...and they used the National Marine Fisheries numbers that were....

I: They never opened it!

OG:...and they were very conservative....

I: ...that never got opened.

OG: ...with those numbers as far as the die-off. They really thought it was...

RES: Higher than...

OG: They really think [ ] was higher because we were catching 10% of the ones that were dead, but actually it was higher. It might have been 20%, it might have been 50%, but that was the numbers. They even said "well this is, you know, these are very conservative numbers". So in one closed area you had a 10% die-off rate that was, you know, the scallops [ ].

I: Clappers.

OG: Clappers. So, at that 10% , that...what the entire scallop industry landed that year. I think maybe it was...maybe the number was, I don't know, 1,400 pounds, whatever the...you know...I'm just rounding those numbers off. But that's a lot! That was because of essential fish habitat. Now we've done habitat studies on this boat already, with video cameras and you know, we had a...

RES: Looking at what is happening?

OG: Well, we had an area, but we did an area. We monitored it for a whole year. My guess is, one good northeaster like we had, probably does more damage to the habitat than all the scallop boats together.

I: I don't think you should use the word 'damage'. It just disturbs it.

OG: Disturbs it.

I: But that doesn't necessarily mean a bad thing. Sometimes you disturb the bottom, it's good.

RES: You guys are using a twin dredge, right? A side...yeah.

OG: Even the scientists we had on board...we didn't realize that a storm would do that much change to the bottom because, you know, when we first did it we videoed it, and then we dredged. We video, and we saw what it was like, and we saw where the dredge interacted with it. We came back 3 months later.

I: It looked like we were never there.

OG: It looked like...we were never there. And then we went back after a storm.

RES: Do you carry a side scan on the...

I: No, we brought one. It was part of the project.

OG:...so we did that for a whole year, and they were even amazed. And that's why the last time we did it, it looked just like...*exactly* like the way it was left. So, it's always changing, whether it's for the better...but what does it matter if it's from scallop boats that are working or...I'm sure this northeaster...I mean, I don't know, I haven't seen it in awhile, but as a kid I remember

there was...you'd get a big northeaster and the whole beach would be full of clams. I don't know if that happens anymore...those clams are moved. I mean the difference is obvious. I mean it was in the paper today...one whole section of Long Beach Island just got chunked into the ocean. So whatever's happening on the beach, the same thing's happening underneath.

RES: Right. Down to a certain depth anyway.

OG: Right, yeah. You probably go down to...well, we know it goes out to....we know....we can tell it goes...I think 30 fathoms....which is like 150 feet?

RES: Yeah, it's pretty deep.

OG: There's definitely a change in the bottom because we could go out here after a storm into 30 fathoms, and set out, and you'll think that the stern of your boats gonna come out. Well, what happens is the bottom is all ridged up. It's changed. So, you don't...you haul back, you don't catch any scallops, you don't catch anything. But then, give it....

I...a week.

OG: 2 weeks, a week. A week to 2 weeks. It all goes back to the way it was.

RES: What's the maximum you'll scallop drag at, depth-wise?

OG: Well, down here it should...

OG2: 40,000.

RES: 40,000 above the limit of what ....?

OG: Yeah. [ ]

I: 60 [ ]

RES: Is that a technical restriction, like it won't work or just the scallops aren't there?

OG: Just not there.

RES: So that's their range.

I: For some reason, they live deeper on Georges Bank.

RES: On the whole, have your fishing grounds changed over time? I mean, do you guys find yourselves going farther than you used to?

OG2: Well, we're fishing closer now because...

I:...more scallops closer.

OG2...there's more scallops closer.

I: Because we brought the resource back.

RES: “We” the industry, and through living the restrictions and...?

I: Yeah. We, the industry, and the council and the National Marine Fisheries group.

OG: I gotta say, National Marine Fisheries Service, there’s one thing you gotta say about them, they’re numbers people, and they will like....they....numbers are numbers...they’re scientists. You’re a scientist, essentially. I mean, you take numbers and you roll ‘em around and...

I: One and one is two, it’s not four.

OG: Maybe some people you know, are higher up in the National Marine Fisheries or the council, you know, they can manipulate the numbers however they want, but the scientists in the National Marine Fisheries...they’re great.

I: Yeah. We did the survey with them in ’98. They were good.

RES: So that’s been a pleasurable, if you want to call it pleasure, but that’s been a good interaction for you guys.

I: They were good people.

OG: See, when we did the survey....

I: And U Mass was involved in that.

RES: Oh, were they?

I: Do you know Brian Rothschild?

RES: I know the name, I don’t know ....

I: I guess he’s the head of that school, in Dartmouth. U Mass, Dartmouth. I would say he has been behind everything, and he’s ....

RES: You mean in terms of the research set-aside work, or scallop fishing?

I: Everything. The scallop fishery. He’s just done wonders. He’s gotten these surveys done and he understands that one and one equals two and this is what it is, and I would say that he’s been one of the most influential positive people involved in this whole thing.

RES: So now, I just getting a general impression here...

I:...and he’s a New Jersey guy!

RES: Good for him!

I: And a Rutgers grad.

RES: Gonna be alright then. I'm getting the impression that on the whole you guys are fairly pro the way things are being managed, other than some occasional ....

I: Right now the general category....

RES: Well, the general category and the issue of quickness. The responding to change. Your fees, if you want to call it that.

OG: Generally I would say they got it right.

I: They do have it right. Well, they're definitely on the right path.

OG: What you don't have what we used to have. You don't have the boom and the bust. You don't have, you know one minute you have 100 boats and then the next minute you have 500 boats.

I: If we didn't have limited access and ....well, I just want to say one thing, I guess it'll be on the tape recorder, that I think the number one thing that has done good is the gear restriction, 'cause all those baby scallops that we don't catch stay down in that cold water, in their environment, and they don't get killed, and they're there for the future.

RES: And they're there next year or 2 years or whatever.

I: Got the 4 inch ring and only 2 links and no obstructing the openings is been the best thing.

OG: Yeah, 'cause if you don't catch it you don't see it. And you don't want to see it. What I was explaining to you before about them opening that Elephant Trunk area, yeah there's a lot of big scallops, but there's a lot of immature scallops there that are gonna get caught. They may not be processed, but they're gonna be caught, they're gonna be....

RES: Even with a 4 inch ring?

I: Oh yeah, well once the dredge gets full you're catching them. But the 4 inch ring is definitely a positive. See, we started out with a 3 inch ring, and then we kept fishing it down and we even put cookies in between the links to block [ ]. And that was terrible.

RES: But, to keep your catch up that was what...

I: Right. But then we did away with that and then we went to the 3 and a quarter inch ring, we went to 3 and a half inch ring and then they went all the way to the next half inch up to the 4 inch ring and ...

RES: What actually is a cookie? Is that a piece of metal?

I: A piece of rubber.

RES: Yeah. That was happening in Newfoundland. Ground fishing guys were lining their nets with...socking their mesh and ...they called it 'socking'. You know their layering there.

OG: Right. Well, that's what you're not allowed to do in ....you're not allowed to have any restriction other than that 4 inch ring. So, like right now, I would say, let's say this past January 1<sup>st</sup> they said, "No more rules and regulations". Anybody could go out and catch what they wanted.

I: One year.

OG: One year.

I: The fishery would be totally wiped out.

OG: It would be gone.

I: Gone, 'cause we've seen that.

RES: With what?

I: Well, before any regulations we had booms and busts. Fishing got good. 200...500 boats would come up from the south, put dredges on, fish it to death, and then they would all wind up going out of business and they'd be rusted hulks on the shore somewhere. And then there'd be nobody, just us and you guys, and then, get another boom, and the boats would all come again. Kill it.

OG: If there was no regulations it would be one year.

I: No, one year.

OG: One year would do it. Number one, the technology would do it.

RES: Why did you guys stick with scalloping when it got so thin?

OG: Because we were making a living. We weren't making a great living, but we were still making a living. I mean, I can't...

RES: Did you ever think about it?

OG: About leaving?

RES: Yeah.

OG: Oh yeah.

RES: Going to another fishery, re-rig.

OG: Not another fishery, no. [ ]...and I wasn't prepared to move anywhere.

RES: You mean physically move, with the kids and whoever...family.

OG: I like where I live. If I would have done anything, I would have left. I know guys who went to Alaska you know, but everybody we know who moved to Alaska, they come back broke.

RES: Wasn't worth it.

OG: Yeah. They just come back broke. I just know a lot of guys, they'd come back, or they'd never come back....they're dead....lost at sea or whatever. I just wasn't prepared to do that, but we've always been able to make a living, number one, because we run our own boat. Because we're really a business....there's 2 of us....we work together, and you know, some years, you would make more money than other years. Well, you just had to make sure that you didn't overextend yourself.

RES: Right. Sock away enough in the good years.

OG: That's right. And we've done other things too. We worked on that Flight 800 plane crash, XXXX's boat worked on that.

RES: I remember when that happened.

I: Yeah, we were one of the salvage boats.

RES: That must have been something.

OG: It was just a lot of parts. But we've done a lot of, you know we're doing scientific work, we do extra days now in New England for part of the [ ]. Now we're putting in for our own plan.

RES: And what's going to happen with that? Do you know what kind of research it goes into?

OG: What? That we're gonna do? We're going to be more or less monitoring...

I: ...monitoring the Elephant Trunk.

RES: Oh, some more closed area research?

I: If we get it.

OG: If we get it. Which is now probably ....

RES: ...relatively soon?

I: Yeah.

OG: Today, tomorrow, or the next day. But we also put in for a habitat study also, because the one that we did last year was kinda like a pilot project for that. It's gonna be video camera. So that might be either...maybe we'll get 2 of those projects. Maybe we'll get one, maybe none, but even as it is I can [ ] for another guy who has a project out of New Bedford. He does a video survey.

I: [ ]

OG: Yeah. He actually has a video camera on a sled that they actually tow around. [ ]

I: Well, we did one. One, last fishing year, and one this fishing year.

OG: Yeah. That's right.

I: Yeah. We did one in December. We did a 10 day one this year....oh it was 9 days.

OG: Yeah. We did one last year at this time on 2004...

I: But that was 2004 fishing year...

OG:...and then we did one

I: One in December for 2005 fishing year.

OG: So, it's an extra 20 ....

I: What did he do? He took extra boats this year?

OG: So, we did an extra 20 days...that's a lot!

I: In '05.

OG: That's like another 20% of what we're...

I: In '05.

OG: You know, that adds up. I mean, of course you have to contribute a certain percentage...

I: Well, we contributed a lot!

[ ]

I: ...Cape May or Virginia, or North Carolina.

RES: Your community in that sense is more like the scallop fleet, rather than Pt. Pleasant. Is that what you mean?

I: Right. We don't really socialize with any fishermen in this port.

RES: Most of the people that you know from scallop meetings, or how do you get to know them?

OG: We've sold boats to a family in Connecticut, we're friends with them now. I mean we've been friends with them since 19....We bought a boat from a guy in North Carolina, we're friends with them.

I: The XXXX...his grandfather ran it, uncle ran it, so you get to know people. He built this boat in North Carolina.

OG: You know, in a period of a day I could get an email from guys from CT, or [ ] or guys from NC just sent a message: how was your last trip, where were you fishing, or whatever.

I: My son actually works on a boat in Cape May.

RES: Okay. Is he gonna get involved in this operation?

I: Hope [ ]. We're hoping' that he takes over.

OG: See, but that 's the problem with the limited entry is that you're not gonna say to him, "Well, look work for this guy and then when you're done I'll buy you a boat".

I: There's no boats to buy.

OG: There's no boats to buy, I mean unless you know...you're gonna pay premium for a boat... 4 million dollars or whatever they're worth. That's not the way it is. That's how it was years ago.

I: Well, no.

[ ]

RES: One of the things that we ask about was market and distribution. Has that changed for you guys over time where you sell and where it goes and ...

I: Yeah. We used to sell to a buyer here, Carlson, and that was the Lobster Shanty people ran that, and then we bought a trip into New Bedford and then we were selling to New York [ ] for a couple years.

RES: Direct, would you go there?

I: We went there. We went in there with the boat. We were supposedly the last boat to go in there. We had the fishing boat in [ ] Pier or whatever it was. We're the history boat. Feel like we're a hundred years old. And then we were selling' to Cape May. And then we got hooked up with a guy in New Bedford. It's too bad you weren't here before. We just packed out the trip. And then that company had trouble and then we went to this company that we're selling' to now. We sold to the co-op for about a year.

RES: And you didn't stay with them?

I: They weren't into it that much.

OG: They weren't into like takin' a whole bunch at one time.

I: Scallops. They have gotten into the scallop industry much more since then. I guess they wanted to do it and it didn't really work for them. They were more fish.

RES: So you happy with the situation now?

I: Oh, right now we're dealing' with the good guys.

OG: Yeah.

I: We sold to XXXX in New Bedford. And they send a truck down with all the ice and totes and scale...

RES:...help pack it out and...?

I: Pack it out. We started at 8:00 this morning, we were done by 11:00.

RES: Not too bad.

I: No. But they were on their way back up.

RES: What about the infrastructure that's been available. You talked a little bit about the dock, but what about other things that you need like welding and all that kinda stuff.

I: Well, this is a good port. We don't have a place to haul out anymore. We used to haul out right over here.

OG2: That's why we go to Cape May.

I: We go to Cape May. We tried a place in Staten Island but they couldn't take the boat. I think that's [ ] But now, see, just in the past 6 months, real estate has changed, so maybe...

RES: You mean it's cooling' off?

I: It's cooled off completely. I have a house for sale.

RES: So you know this first hand.

I: There's 56 houses on Lake Manasquan....56 houses for sale, 2 sold in the last 4 months. Which is....in some sense good.

RES: Why? 'Cause the bubble was...well, if you want to call it that, I don't know.

I: Well, we don't need all the houses. There has to be other things.

OG: Not only that, the services I think, are tighter and tighter. It's gonna get real tight, I think, around here.

I: Oh, I don't know.

OG: You know, especially if over by the clam dock. Because the welding shop over there...he used to do a lot of clams.

RES: XXXX. I met him this afternoon.

OG: Great guy.

I: You might want to talk to XXXX. He's the engine guy right here. XXXX

OG: There was another place here that went out of business.

I: [ ]

RES: They were here.

OG: They were here, and a lot of boats didn't....

RES: So you think has it gotten tighter since you've been here or that's just something you see that's going to happen?

I: Yeah, it has.

OG: Oh yeah, absolutely.

I: It has. Well, the shipyard is not operating now and Pt. Pleasant Ironworks is not operating. They [ ] with General Motors dealer, and this is the Caterpillar dealer, and he had this place sold.

RES: This fellow right here?

I: Yeah. He had this place sold and that fell through so he's still here but...

OG: But otherwise, it didn't happen.

RES: How many businesses would you say there were when you started?

OG: Well, there used to be a couple electronics places, right?

I: Ain't there one now?

RES: Where do you go for your electronics?

I: Guy in Barnegat comes up...XXXX

RES: Is that XXXX relation?

I: Yeah. XXXXX Yeah, he's good.

RES: I haven't talked to XXXX yet but his name comes up a lot.

I: Yeah, XXXX. XXXX's a very classic ....

RES: Yeah. He's been around a long time.

OG: He's old school.

I: Well, he's not really that old, is he? Thinkin' like 60.

OG: Ah, he's old.

RES: Yeah, I heard around 70 anyway.

I: Yeah, he must be 70.

RES: I don't know him, as I say.

OG: But, [ ]

RES: Why are they gone?

OG2: Not enough fishery. See all these guys were in business right around when the [ ]  
...whole bunch of boats were built....

RES: 25 years ago.

OG2: 30 years ago...and then they just basically disappeared because of what ....

I: Well, like we were saying, in the '50's and 60's there was like, 200 clam boats in here, and fish draggers.

OG: So there was a lot of...

RES: Well, that would keep the RES guy and the Caterpillar guy [ ].

I: They were busy all the time, and now it's only a few boats. Frankly, I think that the equipment is much better.

RES: Not breaking down.

I: Not breaking down. You know, like this engine...we built this boat in 1988 and this engine hasn't been rebuilt.

RES: How many horsepower does the engine on this....?

OG: 1,100. But is under....it's more than what we need. So we don't labor this engine.

I: But it's got a 78,000 [ ] on it. Rule of thumb, when I first started fishing was 20,000 hours and rebuild an engine. This one's got 78 on it.

RES: Wow. So, knock on wood or...?

I: Well...so this guy is not rebuilding everybody's engines every 20, 000 hours now.

OG: So, how many rebuilds...I mean he doesn't get....

I: I hardly ever see him rebuild anything....

OG: I think he does more sport work than he does commercial work.

RES: Well, I guess that's been growing...the demand...

I: Sure. He used to do no sport work.

OG: He wouldn't do 'em. He'd throw 'em out of the shop.

I: He'll do it now. 80 percent of...80% ...Well, he does co-op guys, he does us.

OG2: Yeah, but how much work is there? He's done a lot of sport guys because they're using their engines...they use their engines. They [ ] by the wall.

OG: I mean we know a guy...how many times did he rebuild XXXX? It must have been rebuilt 3 times.

OG: Not in commercial life, you don't get it, and for some reason he wasn't doin' the clammers.

I: Still doesn't do 'em. He just doesn't get involved. [ ].

RES: We usually end off by asking if there's anything that I didn't ask you that you think I should know. We have [ ] questions that I went through, but in terms of history that you think is interesting or you know, as focus has been on regulations, are there things that you think are good or bad?

I: The regulations?

RES: Yeah.

OG: I'll tell you what it is. The biggest thing about commercial fishing that I personally don't like is the unpredictability of what the government is going to do to personally affect me....that's gonna affect me personally as far as my financial security and welfare. 'cause you don't know. Like right now we're doin' very good, but you don't know where you stand from....because they could come in and...

I: Our biggest fear is that they're gonna f--- up.

OG: And they did.

I: They did with [ ] canyon access here.

OG: That's a classic example...

I: We were lucky that we got our trips when we did.

OG: Right, 'cause we saw the handwriting on the wall. We knew that that was not gonna be what...

I: Sustainable.

OG: We knew that it was...number one it was over fished when we went in there, and we knew...the last trip we made in there, I think it was in April...beginning of May, last year, 2005.

I: Just make a note, as a prediction, that I think that closed Area 2 is gonna be over fished by the end of the next fishing year.

RES: 2006?

I: Of 2006 fishing year.

OG: Well, because they pushed the effort out there.

I: Because Oceana f-----d up Area 1 where there's all those scallops so now they gave us a trip in Area 2 where there's way more scallops in Area 1. So I think...and I'm not saying, you know, National Marine Fisheries is f---ing it up. They're doing the best they can. Oceana is actually f-----g that up.

RES: So what do you do about pressure from a group like that?

I: Go to meetings and...

OG: You have to make sure you contribute to fisherman's survival.

I: Well, there's a lot of stuff in court with them. They got it closed in court. So, you gotta convince...

RES: Counter-sue or whatever.

OG: That's the biggest thing, is the unpredictability. As far as a human being, being a father and a husband and sole provider, that's my biggest fear is that they're gonna destroy this, and we're gonna be out fishing not making a living because of some court regulation that's just going to be...

I: See right now the council is so political that they really can't make the right decisions all the time. And then you have Oceana pushing them and they're political, and they're making decisions that aren't right. Up until the last few years we always perceived the National Marine Fisheries Service as our enemy because they started putting the restrictions on us, but in the last few years we've realized that they are our only savior from the political bullshit because they are, to a large degree, mostly numbers people. This is what it is, this is how it's gonna be done, and they have saved them. Hopefully, they can continue to save them. But they didn't stop that Oceana thing.

OG: But you could attribute a lot of that to XXXX.

I: Oh, of course.

OG: Because he....

I: Well, he worked right with 'em.

OG: Yeah, if it wasn't for him. If it wasn't, I tell you, if it wasn't for John Kerry and Barney Franks from Massachusetts, and Ted Kennedy, I don't know where ....

I: I was at a party and it was for Barney Frank? John Kerry. It was for John Kerry. He was running for U.S. senator. And I met him and I met Barney Frank and I told both of them, "Well, I'm a republican, and I'm from New Jersey, but if I lived here I'd be voting for you guys". Barney Frank is from here.

RES: Oh, is he really?

I: He goes," Actually, I'm from New Jersey". I said, "Really"? He goes, "Yeah. I grew up in Belmar. I used to come to Belmar in the summer. I said, "So did I. I never bumped into you".

RES: That's funny. Anything else you want to add...you want to put down or... The last section we ask is what you see in 10 years for this place.

I: I think we're gonna come out of it and be okay.

RES: And when you say 'we' you mean you and your brother or you mean the scallop industry?

I: Our industry. And I think Pt. Pleasant will still be a fishing port.

OG: There's gonna be some bumps in the road, there's gonna be some up and down.

I: Right now we're hitting a bump in the road.

RES: General category.

I: General category is too much. They can say what they want, they're gonna be crying at these meetings, "Oh, you can't do this to us", but they're right now, except for the 400 pounds that they're only like unrestricted fishing people. Like they can fish 365 days a year. And you know, we really can only go out and make a living 100 days a year.

OG: The thing is we sacrificed for quite a few years and we ran this boat at a loss and we put a lot of our money back into the boat...

I: Just to stay in business.

OG: Just to keep it is business and we always made sure that our guys were always paid better than everybody else, they always made more money because we didn't...we always shared up fairly. But our suffering is what made this fishery come back.

I: Right. We did something.

OG: And going' back to [ ] again. I remember being at a meeting with XXXX....it was a meeting down in Cape May and I remember him saying...he goes, "These are the numbers and this is how many boats we can allow to fish this amount of days. 168 boats can fish 205 days at reduced [ ] every year with the rent increase", you know, whatever the interval was...

I: This was in Cape May you saw him?

OG: Yeah, and I said, " Boy, this guy's a real hard ass, you know". But he was right.

I: But he was right.

OG: Because it was, this is what it was, and to us doing all that suffering, that's why the scallops are here today. Otherwise it wouldn't here. There's no way because there were so many boats that were entrenched in this industry that they weren't going anywhere.

I: And I'll tell you who did us good, and I said it before, was XXXX. I hated him because....

RES: What was his position then?

OG: He was the XXXX...

I: XXXX. And he's still in the National Marine Fisheries Service but he's down in Washington now. But, one thing that he did do was he drew the boundaries of the Hudson Canyon access area and he did a damn good job. And that's where all the young scallops grow and populate the rest of the mid-Atlantic. And I think they're kind off-----g it up now but they want to open it, make it an open area, which I don't think they should because that is the spot, and he drew those boundaries very, very intelligently.

OG: Another big thing that maybe you're not even aware of is that there used to be a big scallop net fishery.

RES: Yeah, there was [ ] people that could do that, right?

I: Yeah, but that shouldn't be.

OG: Very limited amount.

I: Thank god that there's not many....

OG: Well, because they generally fished in these areas where the scallop [ ]...because they can't catch the big scallops with a net. So, they would fish in these areas and they would just really wipe 'em clean...of the small scallops. And like I was sayin'....

I: Even the ones that they couldn't cut would be dead. Like I was telling you about the [ ]. Well, just picture a net. You got a mesh, and it doesn't really matter how big the mesh is. The bigger the mesh, obviously, the more stuff's gonna get out, but when you have a diamond mesh and you pull on it, it closes up. So, you're gonna catch a lot of small animals, and that's basically what a net does to a scallop population. And like I said, it's not so much what they're going to put on deck and then cut. It's what they're gonna put on deck and they're gonna push back over, that's not gonna....

RES: Right. It's coming out of the ecosystem and then....

I: Well, it comes up through the water and you know, obviously the [ ] of the water is 80 degrees on the top. Bay scallops can't take that... They can't take that...

OG: By the time they land on deck they're dead.

I: They're dead, when they land them.

OG: 'Cause if they're [ ] say the average on the bottom of say 38 or 40 degrees....

I: That's why I think the gear restriction is the number one good thing

OG: When those scallops come up outta that cold water they hit...85 degrees out, and the water temperature is 80 degrees, those scallops come through that water, they're cooked.

RES: Not to mention the trauma of being physically plucked out of the water, rambled around and all that stuff.

OG: And that's where those areas has been left alone. That's why the Hudson Canyon closed area are repopulated. Because there's nobody fishing in that area, especially with a net. But that area right now is being repopulated, and maybe 5 years from now we might be...we'll do a survey in there and they'll say, "Hey, you know what? Why don't we do one trip here this year? Why don't we do 3 trips, or whatever."

I: It's gotta become an open area, which I'm not so sure is a good idea.

OG: I don't think it's [ ] an open area. I thought they were going to leave that closed.

I: I don't think so.

RES: Be interesting to see.

I: Well, they're gonna leave it closed to give them another trip there...to let those guys make that trip up.

OG2: No. I think they're gonna [ ] trip to the Hudson Canyon closed area...[ ] 7.

I: Hudson Canyon. You mean Elephant Trunk.

OG: In then Elephant Trunk.

RES: Where do you guys hear the information? I mean is this what people talk, or is this from going to meetings, or?

OG: Both.

RES: Both.

OG: Yeah, 'cause you can't make every meeting. So you know, we know guys that go to meetings that we don't go to...

RES: Right. But they'll get on the radio or whatever and....

I: But the survival fund goes to them all. We have a representative...

RES: ...they're paid to do that.

I: Right.

OG2: That's their job.

OG: Now, sometimes maybe they're not painting a rosy picture...maybe they want you to kick in a little bit more because you're scared.

RES: Well sure. They're an organization that's gotta survive.

I: No, we are them.

OG: But they're good because if it wasn't for University of Massachusetts, XXXX, the survival fund, and...

RES: John Kerry and Barney...

OG: Yeah...Woods Hole, I think we would be in some tough shape. Because they all go together...we did a survey. We did the first survey on Georges Bank, and do you want to know something? That was a political f-----g nightmare.

I: What a political....

OG: ...that led us into those closed areas. The [ ] fish were [ ], the lobster fish were [ ]. Oceana, er uh, Greenpeace...there was that....

RES: Conservation Law Foundation....

I: The Coast Guard came out and harassed us!

RES: Really?

OG: And we're like...

I: We got a permit man!

OG:...permit. There was 4....

RES: What year was this?

OG: 1998. And we did a survey and...

I: They were gonna basically put us out of business at that point.

OG: Let me just explain to you what happened here. We did the survey. National Marine Fisheries came along...they did their survey with the Albatross.

RES: And was it a scallop dedicated survey?

OG: Yeah. They did their survey and they said, "Well, we want you to do a survey right behind us". So we did. Now when the scallop....and when the survey boat, they came out with X amount of scallops, whatever the figure was. Well, when the scallop boats did the survey it was...it wasn't ...it was 1,000 times more than what they thought. Because they....

RES: These guys are better at it.

OG: They didn't catch what they....they just did not catch what we caught. So, when they figured a plan they figured that if a regular scallop boat catches 5 times what the Albatross would catch. And I thought that was pretty conservative.

OG2: Reasonable!

I: Well yeah, they had one 10 foot bridge...2 15 footers...so we got 30 foot, they got 10....and we're better, you know.

OG: They would extrapolate that out and they would say, okay the scallop boat is 5 times of what we're really saying. But by the time they got done, it was over 100 times as much. For an example, we were working on the spot, and this was one of their stations...just one 10 minute tow, 15 minute tow, whatever it was. So, they said you had to go here. This is your spot. So, if I made the tow...you probably never saw them, but on Georges Bank they have what they call [ ]. They come up like 25 feet, up and down. We set the dredges, we hauled back...we didn't catch anything. I said "Well, that's not good enough". I said, "That's not right. There has to be some kind of protocol where you can move around that [ ] where I can find...". The guy said, "Yeah, there is. You can make a tow within a mile of that station". So I said, "Yeah, okay". So I steamed around and I found a spot where I could start, so I caught...individually I think I caught 40 bushels...probably 20...probably 2,000 scallops where they showed 1. And there was a lot of spots like that. Well, it has nothing to do with you know, there was any wrong numbers or anything like that, but it showed that from our survey to theirs it was over 100 times. So I remember saying to one of the scientists. I said, "Boy, this is not looking too good for you guys". He said, "Fine. We like good information. We don't want tainted information that's not right. We like this kind of stuff. This is what makes us..."

RES: Right. Your job is not to under or over estimate.

OG: That's right.

I: Right. They want to be accurate.

OG: And that's why I gained total respect for National Marine Fisheries. They didn't take that as...I said somebody's really gonna get a black eye for this, aren't they? No, not at all.

I: Well, the problem we had with the National Marine Fisheries....

OG: ...not at all. They didn't feel that way at all. They didn't feel that was an embarrassment.

I: The problem we had with the National Marine Fishery is that our only dealings had been with the political end of them....

RES: The Council, the...

I: No. The political people in the [? 198]

RES: Oh, in the...yeah.

I:...and the enforcement guys who could be mother f-----rs, 'cause that's their job. So, they were down here bustin' your balls and the political people were trying to appease everybody. So, we didn't like them. So we were dealing with the scientific....

OG: The scientific end is great.

I:...which was...and they were great. They were the best....

RES: Professional.

I: The best group of people.

OG: Because it is what it is. If it's black, it's black. If it's white, it's white.

I: It's not like...and we [? 201] go out of business.

OG: No, we don't. And that was I think XXXX, all that was off his information...all his where with all coming out because it had to be what it was. It couldn't be...and that's where initially [ ]. It was because of that hard-assness in one respect, in the short-term, hurt you, but in the long-term it was the best thing that ever...and that mentality is what brought this fishery back. Now the mentality that you have now with these, with the day guys, it's gonna get hurt again. It's definitely gonna get hurt again.

RES: So, that's likely to change one way or the other, right? In your view?

OG: What's that?

RES: The general category problem.

OG: Well, the problem....

I: We don't see a problem with general category.

RES: It's just the numbers.

I: You just can't let it go crazy.

RES: Some limit.

I: They have to be limited and I...we know general category guys and like I tell them, your [ ] you guys are gonna be gone too if this is just allowed to continue to blossom because there won't be anything left. And you guys are gonna be out of business first because we can tough it out. We've done it before. We can go to Georges Bank and get a trip, but you guys, once this is done, you're done. So, you better put some kind of limits on it. Right now, one of the things on the table, I think there's 7 points if they want to disallow the limited access boats from having a general category catch. But we've already fought this battle and we won it, but my feeling is if they're gonna have some kind of a limit maybe only boats with some kind of a limited access permit should be able to land under the general category. Because then you're not gonna have people that are just totally targeting scallops. They're gonna be doing their lobstering and then a little bit of scallops.

OG: And then some of the guys at Pt. Pleasant, you know, that's what they do. They're lobster fishermen and they just want to put a dredge on, you know just to...

I:...supplement their income.

OG: Which is fine.

I: Which is fine. We have no problem with that.

OG: They're not pounding the hell out of it which some are just...

I: It's become a directed fishery which really is not...

RES: ....was not the intent.

I: But if you had somebody with a general category scallop license and that's all they had, that's a directed fishery.

RES: Right.

I: And that's where the problem is.

OG: That's what they have now. It is a directed fishery.

I: Now they're treating it as one. It's gonna be limited access.

RES: Well, it's worth that much money.

OG: Well, I would say I think as of right now because of the limits...because of the limited access on a general category....

I: 6 months ago they were worth 50 grand.

OG: Yeah, \$50,000. Just because they made it limited access.

I: Well, that was just because they set a control base.

OG: They set a control base.

RES: They shot up to 50 grand just like that.

I: Anything before...

OG: 2004, November.

I: November '04...

RES: ...was worth 50 grand.

I: Was worth 50 grand.

RES: Overnight.

I: That day.

OG: Yeah, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Because there's a limited amount of it now. Now there's 880 [ ] or whatever the total is.

I: Well, I don't know if there's 880. There's 840 boats with VPS's on, but some of those could have been after November '04. Because if you could be landing over 40 pounds.

RES: But it was on that order anyway. Several hundred at least.

I: Oh, it would be several hundred. 'Cause a lot of people opted to not get the VPS.

OG: Oh, did they?

I: And they took the 'A' license. There's an 'A' and a 'B' license. The 'B' license is one with the VPS.

OG: And what's the other one?

I: There's 840 of them.

OG: And what's the one?

I: It's 'A' license.

OG: What's that?

I: No VPS and you can land 40 pounds.

RES: Per day?

I: Yeah, per day or trip. Per trip.

OG: Well, that was wrong too. Well, they had it figured out well, you guys can have [ ] day but you can have 440 pounds...40 pounds. See now I've heard that some of these general category day guys, the want 1,000 pounds a day, 5 days a week.

RES: Instead of 400 unlimited.

OG: Unlimited. But where they want that 1,000 pounds they want us to have less space.

RES: At the same time?

OG: Yeah.

I: Yeah. We have to be cut back.

OG: We have to be cut back so they can...

RES: I guess they make those numbers, they want to make the numbers come out in the end. I mean, that's their theory?

OG: Well, they want as much as they can get.

RES: Right. I mean, that's what I mean. They're trying to maximize their....

OG: But there's only one place that's gonna come out of. It's gonna come out of our end.

RES: With you guys. Yeah.

OG: That's right. And I don't think that's gonna happen, but see, a lot of times you know, I think a lot of people say, "Well, let's ask for as much as we can, and we'll get less than what we're asking".

RES: Right. Well, that's bargaining 101, right?

OG: But what happens is you can ask for so much that you're just gonna get blown right off the table. It's gonna be so ridiculous that you lose all your credibility. Now there's guys in the fishing industry right now who do that. They'll ask for certain things that are just so outlandish that their credibility is just thrown right out.

RES: Ridiculous.

OG: That's right.

RES: Or the [ ].

OG: That's right, and people know that. A lot of people think people are stupid or whatever but if you ask for so ridiculous an amount well, your credibility goes right out the window so they're not going to listen to you at all. I don't think they're not going to get anything like that. It's not going to happen. You know, I was on the phone with this National Marine Fisheries guy last time I was in. He just said, "This is the numbers". He and I worked them out and he said...

I: 3 to 5% of the [ ] they want to give him.

OG: 2 to 5.

RES: The [ ] guy,

OG: 2 to 5.

I: 2 to 5% of the [TAC]. And that's easy to do. All you have to do is here's the [TAC] 60 million pounds. Let's say, 3%, is 1.8 million pounds. You got 800 gen-cat boats. Divide that number by 8. That number, then you divide that by 400 pounds and that's how many days they should get. That's what you get...and if you go over that, you're over fishing.

OG: And like I said before, I still think that's over fishing. I still think that it'd be over fished.

I: Well, they'd get about 20 days fishing. But 20 days each. You would hear a lot of crying but that would only be for people who have gotten into this very late as a directed fishery, which it was not supposed to be. You're not gonna hear somebody who's dragging for squid and mackerel and supplement their income with 20 general category days. That's good. I'll take 20.

OG: I would take it.

I: I mean we've done as many as 90, or 88 or something, in a year, which, yeah, would be too much given the number of boats.

OG: But I remember we did 205 full-time days and we did however many...

I: ...we did about 50.

OG: I think we did 50 and we still didn't make any money.

RES: When the price is...

I: It used to take us 36 hours to get 400 pounds at \$2.15 per pound.

RES: Wow. What would it take you now?

OG2: 6 hours.

I: Dock to dock? No, it's more than 12 hours, but there was a point where before general category boats got into this we could only go out a couple hours and get it in one tow, or two tows. So, it would be...

RES: 20 minute tow.

I: No. A 50 minute tow. So, it'd be 2 hours out...an hour and a half out....

OG: Don't you remember we were going by [ ]. 22 minutes. We were out. 2 tows.

I: But we could do it in 4 hours.

OG: [ ]. In 4 hours you could have them...we would catch 'em. There's nothing there now. Nothing. I could make a tow right here and I'd catch probably the same amount.

I: Not only did the gen-cat boats catch 'em all, but what few were left they scared 'em away. And we're not against general category fishing. We probably have done more general category fishing than anybody, this boat. But we've learned from what we've experienced in fishing that you can't over fish something, and right now it's being over fished. And I know all these general category guys, if they heard us now, "Oh, you guys are hogs". We've been paying our dues for 3 years. This is what we do, so we don't want to see somebody else move in and move us out.

RES: Anything else you guys want to add before I get out of your hair for the day?

I: Well, the way the regulations were before, if you went to a closed area and there was impending bad weather or maybe a nagging breakdown and you left that area, you lost the rest of your quota for that trip. You could never get it back. So people wouldn't leave.

OG: No matter what the weather was like.

RES: Stay out there....high water.

I: And there was loss of life. It was just about 14 months ago the boat [ ] an edge, went down, and everybody got lost except one guy.

OG: So right away they changed the laws...

I: And right before that he wrote a letter to the safety officer and said this is not hypothetical. Somebody will die this year because of that regulation. He said it. And people died.

OG: I got a letter back, "Thank you very much".

I: Now that's like the stupidest regulation anybody could pass. If you're out....stupidest regulation anybody could have. If you're out fishing, and you have safety concerns, you're gonna force people into losing their limited quota, then people are definitely gonna die.

RES: Gonna stay out. They had a problem with that up in Newfoundland actually too. The snow crab fishery up there used to be an open quota, competitive quota with a relatively small [TAC] and the guys would go out there and hell bent for catching their share before they...

I: Like derby fishing.

RES: Yeah.

OG: Well, that's what they....right away, this industry that's what they said they didn't want.

I: That's the way they have it set up. You have a certain amount of days and you can use them whenever you want during the year and what we do, we try to spread 'em out. We try to fish a little bit more when the scallop meats are better.

OG: We do most of our fishing from January to September.

I: And the market's a little bit better.

RES: And then you what? You take out.....